

Message Text

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61

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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P R 132230Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5701

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2360

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJ: PDC ANNOUNCES DUARTE'S INTENTION TO RETURN TO EL SALVADOR

1. JUNE 13 PRESS CARRIED PDC AD ANNOUNCING THE INTENTION OF FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOSE NAPOLEON DUARTE TO RETURN TO EL SALVADOR FROM CARACAS TO RESIDE HERE PERMANENTLY. NO SPECIFIC DATE WAS MENTIONED IN THE AD. BUT PDC SOURCES TELL US THAT DUARTE WILL ATTEMPT TO ENTER EL SALVADOR DURING THE WEEKEND OR EARLY NEXT WEEK. BOTH AD AND OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT MOLINA REFER TO "RUMORS" AND "SEMI-OFFICIAL INFORMATION" THAT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PERMIT DUARTE TO RE-ENTER THE COUNTRY. PDC PRIVATELY CLAIMED THAT AUDIENCE GRANTED FOR JUNE 13 WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MARTINEZ VARELA TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POSTPONED. AD CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL TO UNO, LABOR AND STUDENT GROUPS AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT WHAT IT TERMED DUARTE'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO RETURN TO EL SALVADOR.

2. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, HIGH-RANKING MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, WHO REGRET HAVING PERMITTED DUARTE TO RETURN

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DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, STRONGLY OPPOSE HIS PERMANENT RETURN

NOW. THEY FEAR THAT DUARTE, WHOSE ATTRACTIVENESS TO THE ELECTORATE
THEY UNDERESTIMATED IN THE RECENT CAMPAIGN, MIGHT PROVIDE EFFECTIVE
LEADERSHIP TO THE OPPOSITION AT A TIME WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS
FACED WITH DISCONTENT OVER ECONOMIC ISSUES. WHILE PDC ADMITS
PRIVATELY IT IS UNLIKELY HE CAN ENTER, IT IS TRYING TO GENERATE
POPULAR SUPPORT ON DUARTE'S BEHALF IN THE
HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACQUIESCE IN HIS RETURN. ITS APPEAL
TO THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED POLITICAL, LABOR AND STUDENT GROUPS,
HOWEVER, WILL PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO SUSPECT DUARTE OF
EXTREME LEFT LEANINGS.
CAMPBELL

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NNN

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